LIBRARY

MARKET HARBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1947

LIBRARY

JOHN R. BYARS, MB.,ChB.,DPH,
Medical Officer of Health.

MARKET HARBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1947

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1947.

As this report deals with a period when my predessor was your Medical Officer of Health, it has, of necessity, been prepared from records and with the very valuable assistance of Mr. R. W. Turner, Sanitary Inspector.

The general health of the District has been satisfactory. Of Vital Statistics, the increased birth rate, the highest for the past ten years, is of interest.

In studying the statistics, note must be taken of the fact that the estimated population has increased by 600 over ten years.

The death rate increased during 1947. The increase is general, and not due to any one particular disease. In common with the rest of the country the Infant Mortality rate is increased on last year's figure.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. BYARS,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) 45,166

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947)
according to rate books 2,750

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1947 ..... £45,307

Sum represented by a penny rate ..... £178.18.

POPULATION:+

1947, Registrar General's estimate 9,311

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the changes in population during the last ten years:-

1938	8,680	1942	9,448
1939a	8,590	1943	9,497
b	8,836	1944	9,110
1940	9,265	1945	8,713
1941	9,688	1946	8,809
		1947	9,311

a = population appropriate to calculate of death rate.
b = population appropriate to calculation of birth rate.

BIRTHS:-			1946	1947
Live Births:-	Legitimate	- Male	92	106
		Female	72	76
		Total	164	182
	Illegitimate	- Male	1	4
		Female	7	7
		Total	8	11
	Total live births	- Male	93	110
		Female	79	83
		Total	172	193
Stillbirths:-	Legitimate	- Male	-	-
		Female	3	2
		Total	3	2
	Illegitimate	- Male	-	-
		Female	-	-
		Total	-	-
	Total stillbirths	- Male	-	-
		Female	3	2
		Total	3	2

	1946	1947
Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population:-		
Market Harborough	19.5	20.1
England and Wales	19.1	20.5
Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births:-		
Market Harborough	46.5	57.0
Stillbirths:- Rate per 1,000 live and still births	17.4	10.4
Stillbirths:- Rate per 1,000 estimated population:-		
Market Harborough	0.34	0.21
England and Wales	0.53	0.50

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total live births. Mkt.Harboro	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Market Harborough	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1938	112	11.9	15.3	15.1
1939	99	11.2	15.0	15.0
1940	102	11.0	15.1	14.6
1941	116	11.8	14.6	14.2
1942	114	12.1	17.3	15.8
1943	167	17.6	19.6	16.5
1944	181	19.9	21.1	17.6
1945	134	15.4	18.8	16.1
1946	172	19.5	20.6	19.1
1947	193	20.1	21.2	20.5

DEATHS:-		1946	1947
Total number of Deaths:-	Male	44	61
	Female	43	52
	Total	87	113
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:-			
	Market Harborough	9.9	12.1
	England and Wales	11.4	12.0

TABLE showing the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total deaths. Market Harborough	Death Rates. (per 1,000 population) Not corrected for age or for sex distribution of the population.		
		Market Harborough	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1938	90	10.4	10.5	11.6
1939	102	11.6	10.8	12.1
1940	138	14.9	12.4	14.3
1941	124	12.8	11.0	12.9
1942	118	12.5	10.4	11.6
1943	111	11.7	11.3	12.1
1944	107	11.7	11.2	11.6
1945	134	15.4	11.1	11.4
1946	87	9.9	10.7	11.5
1947	113	12.1	11.3	12.0

Deaths from puerperal causes:-	1946	1947
No. of deaths:-		
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes.....	-	-
Rate per 1,000 live and still births:-		
Market Harborough	-	-
England and Wales	1.43	1.17

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-			
No. of Deaths:-			
Legitimate	Male	2	2
	Female	1	2
	Total	3	4
Illegitimate	Male	-	-
	Female	-	1
	Total	-	1
Total infant deaths		3	5
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births:-			
Market Harborough		17.4	25.9
England and Wales		43	41

TABLE showing the deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total Infant deaths	Infant Mortality Rates, per 1,000 live births.		
		Market Harborough	Leicestershire	England and Wales.
1938	6	55.6	44	53
1939	5	50.5	46	40
1940	2	19.6	46	55
1941	3	25.9	50	59
1942	6	52.6	47	49
1943	3	18.0	42	49
1944	3	16.6	37	46
1945	5	37.3	36	46
1946	3	17.4	35	43
1947	5	25.9	43	41

Causes of Death:-

Registrar General's Classifications:-

	1946			1947		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping-cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2	1	1	2
7. Tuberculosis, non-respiratory ...	-	1	1	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Influenza	1	-	1	-	1	1
10. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Cancer, of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F) .	-	1	1	-	-	-
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum ...	-	-	-	1	2	3
15. Cancer of breast	-	2	2	-	3	3
16. Cancer, all other sites	4	8	12	8	6	14
17. Diabetes	-	1	1	1	-	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..	5	4	9	7	7	14
19. Heart disease	17	12	29	20	21	41
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	2	-	2	2	-	2
21. Bronchitis	1	2	3	2	2	4
22. Pneumonia	-	1	1	3	1	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1	-	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1	1	1	1	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs of age) ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	-	-	-	1	2	3
28. Nephritis	1	2	3	3	-	3
29. Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Premature birth	1	-	1	1	1	2
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	1	-	1	-	1	1
33. Suicide	1	-	1	2	-	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	2	-	2
35. Other violent causes	2	3	5	2	-	2
36. All other causes	6	4	10	4	2	6
Total deaths, all causes	44	43	87	61	52	113

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sanitary Inspector:-
Mr. R. W. Turner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. W. Turner for the following information upon the sanitary circumstances of the area :-

WATER SUPPLY:-

The Mains supplies of water have been satisfactory; the well supplies have been in some cases fair only. All the wells are shallow wells, and therefore liable to contamination, even though most are cement rendered and all precautions are taken.

In all villages without mains supply there have been very pronounced shortages, in particular in the villages of Church Langton, East Langton, Stonton Wyville, Shangton, Saddington, Mowsley and Husbands Bosworth. A lorry was used to take water to these villages from mid August to December 31st, 1947. Three times weekly a door to door delivery was made, an average of (approx) 40,000 gallons per month was supplied.

Two samples of mains supplies of water were taken for chemical analysis. Both were satisfactory.

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses having a piped water supply laid into the houses	1,374
(b)	Number of parishes with a piped water supply ..... From Public mains	6
	From private reservoirs	2
(c)	Number of parishes without a piped supply of water	23
(d)	Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water	65

At the end of the year the work of laying mains in Foxton was commenced, and up to the present 10 houses in the village have been connected. The village has a population of 321 (1931), and 88 dwelling-houses.

A new Council Estate, comprising 12 houses at Husbands Bosworth has water from the U.D.C. Mains to underground tanks, from which it is pumped into roof cisterns.

The Leicester City water main in Kibworth has been extended from the end of the village on Fleckney Road to two farms, a distance of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Number of wells cleansed etc. (Public)	6
No. of houses relying on wells supplies	1,376
No. of samples taken from wells for chemical analysis, (a) Satisfactory	7
(b) Unsatisfactory	4

Post War Proposals:-

Negotiations have been in progress throughout the area for water schemes for the whole area which is not already supplied, covering two sections, the Eastern side and the Western side, the road A6 being the dividing line. A public enquiry regarding the supply for the Western side was held on the 31st December, 1947, but no information has yet been received from the Ministry as to this enquiry.

During the year the Council was so perturbed at the shortage of water in the Langton area, particularly with regard to Church Langton school, that they applied to the Ministry for an interview, and again no reply has been forthcoming.

The Council is very gravely concerned with the water situation throughout the area, and is more than willing that water schemes should be commenced for a piped supply for all villages as soon as possible.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No. of cesspools constructed during the year	4
No. of cesspools abolished during the year	1
Total number in the District Dec. 31st, 1947	27

A short length of new sewer was re-laid at Foxton. Apart from this, the only improvements were the installation of proper trapped road surface gullies in the old combined systems by the County Council Roads Department.

There are 8 filter systems and 3 land irrigation sewage-disposal systems in the District. In two parishes new schemes have been formulated.

Post-War Proposals:-

Proposed new sewers at Smeeton Westerby and joint new outfall works with the Kibworths which were submitted to the Ministry some time ago, were returned to the Engineers with a list of controlled materials and labour required in connection with the job. No reply has been received as yet.

Regarding proposed new outfall works for Horninghold, an enquiry was held, and the plans are at the moment in the hands of the Ministry.

The Engineers are preparing plans for Saddington and Drayton, the original scheme with regard to the latter village having had to be revised on account of the eventual flooding of the proposed outfall works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total numbers in the District on 31st Dec., 1947:-

(a) Privies	170
(b) Pail Closets.....	95
(c) Water closets	1,842

Number of privies converted to the water carriage system during the year	9
Number of pail closets converted to the water-carriage system during the year	7

As in 1946, all earth closets, privies, private cesspools, etc. are cleansed by the occupiers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is removed fortnightly by direct labour. Two motor vehicles, one of 5, one of 7 cubic yards capacity, (covered) are used. These cover the whole area.

Trade refuse is removed on application. Charges are made in accordance with time and distance from the nearest tip.

Four crude tips are in use, at Kibworth, Foxton, Hallaton and Husbands Bosworth.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of complaints received	147
Total number of Defects or Nuisances discovered	88

Sanitary Inspections of the Area:-

Animal Keeping	-
Bakehouses	6
Dairies and Cowsheds	206
Drainage Works	555
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	1,260
Food Premises	20
Offensive trades	-
Rats and Mice Destruction	6
Refuse Collection and Disposal	82
Schools	4
Shops	17
Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection	15
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	4
Verminous Premises and Scabies	9
Water Supplies	534
Workshops, etc.	38
Other Inspections	198
Total Inspections	2,954

Notices served during the year:-	Preliminary Housing	Re-Visits. Public Health
Outstanding on January 1st, 1947	23	3
Issued during the year	30	166
Complied with during the year	39	159
Statutory Action necessary	-	-
Outstanding, on December 31st, 1947	14	10

CAMPING SITES

No. of Sites in Area used for camping purposes during the year	3
No. of Camping Sites for which licenses have been issued	2

REGULATED BUILDINGS:-

No. of Tents, Vans, Sheds, in the Area	1
No. of Inspections made	4
Action Taken	Nil

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION.

Tips are regularly disinfested by contract with the L.W.A.E.C. Clearing of small infestations carried out by Council Workmen, and occupiers charged on time and material basis.

SCHOOLS:-

Defective drain was re-laid at Foxton.

Church Langton School was examined periodically with regard to water supplies, and water was carted by Council throughout the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No. on the Area,	(a) Publicly owned	Nil
	(b) Privately owned	1
No, of Inspections made		Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk:-

(a) Cowkeepers.

Number on Register	151
Number of Inspections made	198
No. of contraventions outstanding from 1946....	8
" " " found during the year ...	16
" " " remedied during the year	14
" " " outstanding on 31st Dec.1947	10

(b) Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (Other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register	3
No. of Inspections made	8
No. of Contraventions found	Nil

Total Contraventions:-

Cleansing.	Outstanding from previous year ..	1
	Found during the year	12
	Remedied during the year	10
Structural Alterations.		
	Outstanding from previous year ..	7
	Found during the year	4
	Remedied during the year	4

Milk Sampling.

Ordinary Milk.	No.of samples taken for bacteriological examination..	18
	No.found to be satisfactory..	17
	" " " " unsatisfactory.	1

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946

No. of Licenses issued in respect of accredited Bottling	1

ICE CREAM.

No. of premises registered:-	
Manufacture and retail	3
Manufacture only	-
Retail only	6
No. of samples taken	-

The greater part of the area is serviced by Ice Cream Vendors from Leicester, Uppingham and Market Harborough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no Regional Slaughter-Houses in the Area. Pigs slaughtered by local cottagers are examined on request. 15 examinations have been made at the time of slaughter.

There are no Knacker Yards in the Area.

Food Condemned during the year

Home killed beef (3 part carcases)	359 lb.
Steak and Kidney puddings	15 lb.
Miscellaneous tinned foods	17½ lb.

No. of Inspections made at Meat Shops, Stores etc. 18.

HOUSING

1. New Houses.

Total Number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year 427

In the majority of cases the applications are from newly married couples and people living in poor housing conditions in the area.

No. of houses completed during year by Local Authority (Permanent)	58
Average cost per house	£1,350
Average Rent, inc. or exc. of Rates	11/6
Houses completed by Private Enterprise	2
Houses in course of erection at end of year, by Local Authority (Permanent)	66
Average Cost per House	£1,350
Average Rent	11/6

2. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:-

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) 400

Number of Inspections made for the purpose 1,260

(b) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be in a state unfit for human habitation (as per Hobhouse Report) 249

(c) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to in sub-heading preceding) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 151

3. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers 32

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ..... Nil

5. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :-

The number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year is unknown.

With regard to the overcrowding section of the Housing Act, there were so many houses overcrowded as can be evinced from the number of applications for Council Houses, and conditions change so repeatedly, owing to demobilisation, etc., that overcrowding is only taken into consideration when actual Council Houses are to let, and in these instances all applicants' houses are inspected.

Housing Survey.

(a) Total Number of houses to be surveyed 2,478

(b) R.V.limit of houses to be surveyed £16

(c) No. of houses surveyed to 31st Dec., 1947... 2,478

(d) Classification ..... 1..... 1,071
2..... 591
3..... 271
4..... 296
5..... 249

(e) Total number of occupied houses in the District.... 2,750

(f) Total No. of Council Houses occupied in District.... 281

As in 1946 there are still many villages where water and sewage disposal are of the crudest character, and although this Council is willing to do everything possible to remedy the same, the processes with regard to the financial side are very, very slow.

STAFF.

No. of Staff:- (a) Qualified 2
(b) Unqualified ..... -
(c) Clerical (part-time typist) ... 1

The Additional Inspector left in November, and will be replaced early in 1948.

It is intended that in 1948 the part-time typist shall become whole-time employed.

TABLE showing cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease	Under 1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over	Unknown	Total	Admissions To Hospital	Deaths
Measles	10	19	39	79	22	-	3	-	172	2	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	7	2	1	3	-	17	13	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	3	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	1	2	-	5	-	10	-	4
C.S.Meningitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

"To Hospital" includes cases where the diagnosis was not subsequently confirmed.

TABLE showing particulars of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis.

Age Group.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F	M	F	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 " 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 15 " 25 "	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 25 " 35 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 35 " 45 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
" 45 " 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
" 55 " 65 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	-